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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

uploading a scanned barcode and a store credit from a portable scanner, the store credit being stored within the portable scanner and awarded based on participation in a retail store program (RSP); and

processing at least the scanned barcode and the store credit electronically.

- 2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the scanned barcode is a coupon barçode scanned and digitally stored in the portable scanner.
- 3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the uploading of the scanned barcode comprises

establishing a communication path between the portable scanner and a Point of Sale (POS) system at a retail store; and

transmitting the scanned barcode to the POS system for processing.

- (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein prior to processing at least the scanned barcode, the method comprises retrieving coupon barcodes from a storage location on a server associated with a customer assigned the portable scanner, the coupon barcodes being electronic coupons that have been non-redeemed to date.
- 5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein prior to processing at least the scanned barcode, the method comprises scanning coupon barcodes from paper coupons provided by a customer assigned the portable scanner.
- 6. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the processing of the scanned barcode being a coupon barcode comprises comparing a manufacturer code from the coupon barcode

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with a product barcode read by the POS system, and if a match, analyzing each field of the coupon barcode, including a value code, an offer code, an expiration code, and any terms and conditions associated with the coupon barcode, to verify that a purchased product meets terms set by the coupon barcode.

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- 7. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the processing of the scanned barcode being a coupon barcode further comprises redeeming the scanned coupon by determining if a purchase of a product satisfies redemption rules and meets a plurality of terms of coupon definitions.
- 8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the processing of the scanned barcode being a coupon barcode further comprises redeeming of the scanned coupon further comprises generating a detailed proof of purchase for every coupon redemption transaction associated with a purchased product, the proof of purchase comprises (i) a date stamp, (ii) a time stamp, (iii) a retail store location where the coupon was redeemed and an aisle location of a product purchased, (iv) an original selling price of the purchased product, (v) a face value of the scanned coupon redeemed, and (vi) additional discounts offered by the retailer.
- 9. (Previously Presented) Adapted to a portable scanner system supporting electronic coupon validation and redemption, a portable scanner comprising:
 - a communication port;
 - an optical converter;
- a processing unit in communication with the optical converter and the communication port; and

an internal memory coupled to the processing unit, the internal memory comprises a plurality of data storage groupings including (1) a first data storage grouping being a list of coupons, inaccessible for redemption, that are currently available for a particular geographic region, and (2) a second data storage grouping being a list of coupons, accessible for redemption, that were scanned and matched with a coupon of the first data storage grouping. Appl. No. 10/614,733 Amdt. Dated April 20, 2006

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- 10. (Original) The portable scanner of claim 9, wherein the internal memory further comprises a third data storage grouping including a list of coupons, accessible for redemption, that were scanned and unmatched with a coupon of the first data storage grouping.
- 11. (Original) The portable scarmer of claim 10, wherein the internal memory further comprises a fourth data storage grouping being configured to store a manufacturer code for each manufacturer participating in the portable scanner system.
- 12. (Original) The portable scanner of claim 9 further comprising a display to illustrate coupon descriptive information being alphanumeric characters to identify at least one of the following: a value of a coupon, expiration date of a coupon, a description of a discounted product, and a description of a manufacturer of the discounted product.
- 13. (Original) The portable scanner of claim 12 further comprising an interface to enable a customer to control operations of the scanner, the interface comprises (i) at least one scroll key that, when depressed, enables a customer to scroll and review alphanumeric characters on the display, and (ii) a scan key that, when depressed, activates the optical converter to scan a data object.
- 14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the internal memory further contains a unique identification number to enable identification of scanner and the customer.
 - 15. (Previously Presented) A portable scanner system comprising:

a portable scanner that comprises internal memory to store (i) a plurality of electronic coupons stored as coupon barcodes and (ii) retail store program (RSP) information including store credit accessible only by the in-store server; and

an in-store server in communication with the portable scanner to receive downloaded electronic coupons from the portable scanner for subsequent validation and transmission to a Point-of-Sale (POS) system.

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- 16. (Original) The system of claim 15, wherein the POS system includes a POS terminal and a docking station in communication with the POS terminal, the docking station adapted for coupling and communication with the portable scanner.
- 17. (Original) The system of claim 15 further comprising a kiosk in communication with the in-store server, the kiosk adapted for coupling and communication with the portable scanner.
- 18. (Original) The system of claim 15 further comprising a kiosk in communication with the in-store server, the kiosk comprises a scanner/barcode reader for scanning and collecting printed coupons deposited by a customer, coupon information read by the scanner/barcode reader is stored within a database in the in-store server.
 - 19. (Original) A method comprising:

comparing a manufacturer code from a coupon barcode with a product barcode read by a Point-of-Sale (POS) system; and

if a match, analyzing each field of the coupon barcode, including a value code, an offer code, an expiration code, and any other terms and conditions associated with the coupon barcode, to verify that a purchased product and date of purchase satisfies each term set by the coupon barcode.

- 20. (Previously Presented) The portable scanner system of claim 15, wherein the internal memory further comprises a storage grouping within the internal memory being separately configured to store retail store program (RSP) information, the RSP information is able to be reviewed and cannot be modified by a user of the portable scanner.
- 21. (Previously Presented) The portable scanner of claim 20, wherein the RSP information is accessible only by one or more in-store servers of a retail store that uploaded the RSP information to the portable scanner.

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- 22. (Previously Presented) The portable scanner of claim 20, wherein the RSP information includes store credit awarded in response to purchases qualified a specific store shopper program.
- 23. (Previously Presented) The portable scanner of claim 15, wherein the portable scanner processes the electronic coupon by comparing a manufacturer code from the coupon barcode with a product barcode and determining whether a purchase of a product associated with the product barcode meets a plurality of terms and conditions set by the coupon barcode, and only if so, transmits the electronic coupon for routing to the POS system.